

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1201

To provide for the awarding of grants for demonstration projects for kinship care programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 6 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 5), 1995

Mr. COATS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To provide for the awarding of grants for demonstration projects for kinship care programs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Kinship Care Act of
5 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. KINSHIP CARE DEMONSTRATION.**

7 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human
8 Services (hereafter referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
9 retary”) shall award grants to States for demonstration
10 projects to assist such States in developing or implement-

1 ing procedures to use adult relatives as the preferred
2 placement for children removed from their parents, so long
3 as—

4 (1) such relatives are determined to be capable
5 of providing a safe, nurturing environment for the
6 child; or

7 (2) such relatives comply with all relevant Fed-
8 eral and State child protection standards.

9 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a
10 grant under subsection (a), a State shall—

11 (1) agree to, at a minimum, provide a needs-
12 based payment and supportive services, as appro-
13 priate, with respect to children in a kinship care
14 arrangement;

15 (2) agree to give preference to adult relatives
16 who meet applicable adoption standards in making
17 adoption placements;

18 (3) establish such procedures as may be nec-
19 essary to ensure the safety of children who are
20 placed with adult relatives; and

21 (4) establish such procedures as may be nec-
22 essary to ensure that reasonable efforts will be made
23 prior to the placement of a child in foster care to
24 give notice to an adult relative (including a maternal

1 or paternal grandparent, sibling, aunt, or uncle who
2 might be available to care for the child).

3 (c) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall, directly or
4 through contracts with public or private entities, provide
5 for the conduct of evaluations of demonstration projects
6 carried out under subsection (a) and for the dissemination
7 of information developed as a result of such projects.

8 **SEC. 3. PROCEDURES TO PLACE CHILDREN WITH**
9 **RELATIVES.**

10 A State that receives a grant under this Act shall
11 develop procedures to ensure that reasonable efforts will
12 be made prior to the placement of a child in foster care,
13 to provide notice to a relative (including a maternal or
14 fraternal grandparent, adult sibling, aunt, or uncle) who
15 might be available to care for the child.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this Act \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1996,
19 1997, and 1998.

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